

Abstract

LOW NOISE OUTPUT BUFFER

The strength of the output buffer is changed gradually when there is a transition in the output (or input) value. Due to the gradual change, switching noise is avoided in several contexts (e.g., when driving a transmission line, which causes reflections). In an embodiment, the gradual change is implemented using a combination of a current source and a capacitor. The capacitor is provided at an input of the gate terminal of a drive transistor, and a current source is used to control the rate at which the capacitor discharges. As a result, the drive strength of a buffer is controlled.